

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 190310Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1124

S E C R E T MANILA 1832

STADIS/EXDIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MARR, MOPS, RP, CH

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE POSITION WITH RESPECT TO SPRATLEY ISLANDS

1. IN VARIOUS PREVIOUS MESSAGES IN VARIOUS CHANNELS, I SUGGESTED ADVISABILITY OF SOME SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS BY U.S. FORCES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA IN ORDER PRECLUDE SURPRISE ATTACK BY PRC FORCES AGAINST PHILIPPINE MILITARY UNITS, TO WHICH WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION UNDER U.S.-PHIL MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT. IT WAS MY DESIRE THAT U.S. MILITARY SERVICES, AS TOKEN OF OUR MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE AGREEMENT, SHOULD PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE RESULTS TO PHILIPPINE MILITARY SERVUPES.

2. BOTH WASHINGTON AND CINCPAC HAVE INFORMED ME THAT MY SUGGESTION HAS BEEN REJECTED AND, INEXPLICIABLY, THAT NO RPT NO SURVEILLANCE IS TO BE CONDUCTED IN THIS REGION.

3. HOWEVER, WEEKEND NEWS SERVICES, REPORTING FROM SAIGON, CARRY STORIES APPEARING IN MANILA PRESS STATING THAT THE U.S. HAS ESTABLISHED A "RADAR PICKET" TIED IN WITH A SOUTH VIETNAMESE RADAR STATION IN DANANG, IN ORDER TO KEEP TRACK OF MOVEMENTS BY PRC MILITARY FORCES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA. THIS INFORMATION IS ALLEGEDLY BEING SHARED WITH GVN MILITARY, WITH WHOM WE HAVE NO RPT NO MUTUAL DEFENSE OBLIGATION.

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4. IF THESE NEWS STORIES ARE CORRECT, I HAVE CLEARLY BEEN MISINFORMED AND EMBASSY MANILA HAS BEEN PUT IN THE AWKWARD POSITION OF BEING KEPT UNINFORMED ABOUT INFORMATION OF IMPORTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES WHICH

IS BEING SHARED WITH A NEIGHBORING STATE BUT DENIED TO AN ALLY. IT SHOULD BE ADDED THAT ANY U.S. MILITARY UNITS ENGAGED IN THIS SURVEILLANCE MUST OBVIOUSLY BE BASED IN THE PHILIPPINES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE URGENTLY CONFIRM OR DENY ACCURACY OF PRESS STORIES CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA. IF U.S. SERVICES ARE CONDUCTING SUCH SURVEILLANCE AND ARE SHARING INFORMATION WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE, PLEASE ARRANGE EFFECTIVE AND EXPEDITIOUS MEANS TO SHARE THE SAME DATA WITH FILIPINOS.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

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